

amendment of the specification in a manner believed to avoid the grounds of objection.

Claims 1 through 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and is submitted to be obviated by the amendment of the claims in a manner which is believed to avoid each ground of rejection set forth in the Official Action. Further in this regard, it is respectfully submitted that breadth does not constitute indefiniteness.

MPEP 2173.04.

Claims 1 through 13 were rejected variously under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,478,606 (Ohkuma, et al.) and 3,852,222 (Field, et al.). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ohkuma, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,458,254 (Miyagawa, et al.) or Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 5-138882 ("JP '882"). All rejections are initially traversed.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, a liquid flow path having a coating resin layer formed from a cured product of a resin composition comprising a compound having a functional group reactive to the curable epoxy compound and a fluorocarbon moiety.

Claim 11 recites, inter alia, forming a coating resin layer on the soluble resin layer (with the ink flow path pattern formed from the soluble resin), wherein the coating resin layer is formed from a cured product of a resin

composition comprising a compound having a functional group reactive to the curable epoxy compound and a fluorocarbon moiety.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Ohkuma, et al., Field, et al., Miyagawa, et al., and JP '882, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed combinations of claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1 and 11.

Ohkuma, et al. is relied upon in the Official Action for showing, e.g., at col. 6, lines 4 through 6, a reducing agent, copper triflate. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the copper triflate of Ohkuma, et al. does not constitute the claimed compound having a functional group reactive to the curable epoxy compound and a fluorocarbon moiety and that Ohkuma, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1 and 11. Referring to Example 3 and Comparative Example 2 of the present specification (see, e.g., page 25), it will be appreciated that the claimed compound is not contained in Comparative Example 2 (like Ohkuma, et al.), but copper triflate is contained in both, and Applicants respectfully submit that the result shows that where only copper triflate, and not the claimed compound, is employed, the advantages according to the present invention are not obtained.

Field, et al. is relied upon in the Official Action for showing fluorinated diols. However, Applicants respectfully note that Field, et al. states that the polymers are highly hydrophobic. Applicants note that in an ink jet head, if the portion being in contact with ink such as a flow path wall has high water repellency, then the portion is likely to hold a bubble, resulting in adverse affect upon ink discharge, whereas, in contradistinction, the present invention improves (i.e., reduces) water absorption without exhibiting high water repellency. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited documents, Ohkuma, et al. and Field, et al., so as to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1 and 11.

Miyagawa, et al. and JP '882 were relied upon in the Official Action for showing use of oxygen plasma and laser, respectively. It is respectfully noted that Miyagawa, et al. would not appear to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102, because of common inventorship and a publication date after the priority date of the subject application. In any event, Applicants respectfully submit that neither document discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features; nor has there been a showing of any indication of motivation in the cited

documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

Applicants respectfully submit that by means of the above-discussed claimed features, the present invention addresses a problem wherein portions of an ink jet head being in contact with ink, particularly a flow path and a liquid chamber, change in dimension because of swelling, thereby deteriorating printing grade, or that a part of the flow path wall is peeled off by stress caused by swelling, whereby in the present invention, water absorption of a material which becomes a member such as a flow path wall, for example, is reduced to solve the above problem.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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